

**Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections**  
**Crime Victims Services Bureau**

**Victim-Offender Dialogue - in summary**

- C a face-to-face meeting between a crime victim or a crime victim's survivor(s) and the offender who committed the crime
- C a conversation, a chance to ask questions, a chance to tell truths about the personal impacts of a violent crime on the direct victim and others
- C a victim-initiated process, guided by that victim's wishes and questions
- C a carefully structured process, guided by a team of two trained facilitators
- C a process during which physical and emotional safety are overriding concerns
- C a process wherein both participants (victim and offender) meet separately and often repeatedly with facilitators in preparation for the direct meeting
- C a process that encourages each participant to involve a "support person" to be present as a "silent participant" through preparation and dialogue

**Requirements/restrictions**

- C The process is victim-initiated.
- C Requests from direct victims of domestic violence and victims not yet age 18 will not be accepted.
- C Requests involving offenders not in institutional custody (those on probation or under parole supervision) will not be accepted at this time.
- C An offender may choose to participate or not to participate (with neither reward nor punishment for his/her decision).
- C Generally, an offender must be willing to admit guilt in the crime.
- C The preparation process or the dialogue itself can be stopped at any point-by the facilitators or at the request of the victim or the offender.
- C Participation in preparation does not guarantee that a dialogue will take place.
- C Dialogue requests are made by contacting the Crime Victims Services Bureau.